



# Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, January 31, 2005

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

## Citrus Canker--Florida:

On February 4, PPQ sent a letter to the European Commission describing the recent developments in the citrus canker program to address hurricane-caused spread of the disease. The letter described the newest finds of the disease and our actions to address those new finds. Since mid-December, the most significant events have concerned the new detections of citrus canker in the Indian River production area. The Indian River area is important because it is the home of the largest part of the State's grapefruit acreage (grapefruit is extremely susceptible to citrus canker), and the source of a large portion of the State's fresh fruit exports. The first recent detection was in a residential area in Port St. Lucie in the southern part of St. Lucie County. Since that time, citrus canker has been found in three commercial groves located in the northern part of St. Lucie County and in an adjacent residential area. In addition, citrus canker has also been found in a commercial grove in Indian River County, just across the county line from the finds in St. Lucie County. Citrus canker has also been found in a residential area in the town of Sebastian in the northern part of the county.

Delimiting surveys are now being completed in all areas where citrus canker has been found, and it appears at this time that all of the new infestations are fairly well limited. All infected trees, including the newest finds, should be destroyed by February 3. The state is following up with the destruction of all exposed trees (trees within 1,900 ft. of any infected tree) in the Indian River area. Due to the significance of these recent finds, a decision has been made to activate an Incident Command (IC) team to aid in conducting surveys of commercial groves. It is expected that as many as 60 personnel will be participating in the IC survey activity, providing assistance to the state and PPQ in completing

the surveys necessary to ensure that fresh fruit shipments can continue to be safely made from this area.

## Sudden Oak Death:

On January 26, the California Department of Food and Agriculture reported a positive sudden oak death find at the Monrovia production nursery in Azusa, California. This is the same nursery that when found positive in March 2004 launched the sudden oak death emergency response. Trace forward information has been provided to PPQ and will be distributed shortly to the states. The nursery shipped 87,856 hosts and associated host plants to 339 nurseries in 21 states between August 2004 and January 2005. Based on an initial analysis of the draft trace forward list the number of shipments per state are: AZ (13), CA (253), CO (1), FL (6), GA (5), HI (1), ID (3), LA (2), MI (1), NC (2), NM (9), NV (3), NY (1), OK (1), OR (7), PA (1), SC (4), TN (1), TX (14), VA (1), and WA (7) and unknown (3).

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United Kingdom has officially determined that it has found six new plants associated with sudden oak death. Therefore, APHIS will be adding the following plants to its list of hosts and associated host list as associated regulated articles: New Zealand privet, Chinese witch-hazel, star magnolia, Loebner magnolia, saucer or Japanese magnolia, Persian Parrotia or iron tree. Official notification will be made when they are added.

## Program statistics:

For 2005, Monrovia nursery in Azusa, California, is the only positive nursery reported.

For the 2004, the total number of confirmed positive sites from the trace forward, national, and other survey, is 176 in 22 states. The total includes three residential finds; two in Georgia and one in South Carolina; there was one environs find in New York. The breakdown per State is: AL (3), AR (1), AZ (1), CA (55), CO (1), CT (3), FL (6), GA (16), LA (5), MD (3), NC (9), NJ (1), NM (1), NY (1), OK (1), OR (24), PA (1), SC (4), TN (2), TX (11), VA (2) and WA (25).



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By the end of 2004, participating states throughout the nation had surveyed 3,130 sites and had collected 51,520 samples; 15 national survey sites were confirmed positive.

## **Detention of U.S. Durham Wheat Shipment by Algeria:**

On February 1, APHIS was notified that the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture had released a shipment of U.S. durum wheat that had been detained since December 27 because of an alleged finding of Karnal bunt (KB).

USDA laboratories in Olney, Texas and Beltsville, Maryland tested samples from the shipment for the presence of KB; the results of both tests were negative. At the same time, the importer had samples tested by an independent laboratory in France which confirmed that the spores found were not KB. Even though APHIS and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in Morocco, provided the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture evidence to support the negative laboratory findings based on the U.S. domestic quarantine for KB, the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture requested that USDA send a technical expert to Algeria. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientist, Lisa Castlebury (a KB expert) and Michael Fay of FAS traveled to Algeria. Dr. Castlebury demonstrated that KB was not present in the wheat shipment and explained to Algerian lab technicians and administrators why the samples could not be identified as KB. Due to the efforts of both Dr. Castlebury and Michael Fay, the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture sent samples to three independent laboratories in England, France and Italy. All three laboratories found the samples negative for KB.